

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) In an arrangement comprising a plurality of agents connected to a network, said plurality of agents including at least one server, at least one buyer agent, and at least one seller agent, a method for calculating price data, comprising:
- receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer agent, wherein said request for quote includes a product specification data set;
 - transmitting the product specification data set to at least one seller agent;
 - receiving a price data set from said seller agent, wherein the price data set contains at least one quoted value, and wherein information in said price data set is responsive to the product specification data set;
 - receiving metric data from at least one source, wherein the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices;
 - ~~generating a normalized price data at least one comparison value, wherein the normalized price data comparison value is a statistical value calculated by a comparison of a~~ indicative of a ratio of the quoted value ~~derived from the price data set to~~ and at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and
 - communicating ~~said normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value to at least one output.
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2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising communicating ~~the normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value to said buyer agent.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a browsable display describing at least one service and features for allowing a buyer agent to provide a request for quote.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product specification data set includes a delivery date set at a future time.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a buy notice from said buyer agent; and

transmitting a purchase order to at least one said seller agent.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from at least two buyer agents; and

combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set includes information related to a buyer, a grade, a quantity, a tally, a method of shipment, and a ship date.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery method.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said price data set includes information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price and an adjusted quantity.

11. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving an additional price data set from the seller agent, wherein the additional price data is a result from a renegotiated price.

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising storing the ~~normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value in a database communicatively connected to the server.

13. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein generating ~~the normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value includes the step of applying a metric transform to said price data set to create a ~~normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value.

14. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of items having different size parameters and wherein the generation of ~~the normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value includes:

calculating a size total value based on said size parameters;
retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;
retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said metric price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of one of said items;
multiplying said comparable price per unit of said metric price data set by said calculated size total value, thereby creating an adjusted market price total;
calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more adjusted market price totals; and
comparing said summed market price total by said price total, thereby creating ~~[[a]] normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14, wherein comparing said adjusted market price total by said price total includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said adjusted market price total, thereby creating ~~the normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value.

16. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of items, each having different size parameters and type parameters, and wherein the generation of ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value includes:

for each item having similar size parameters and type parameters, calculating a size total value based on a summation of said size parameters;

retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

for each item having similar size parameters and type parameters, retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said market price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of at least one of said items;

multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating a market price total;

calculating a summed market price total from the summation of one or more said market price totals; and

comparing said summed market price total by said price total, thereby creating ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein comparing said summed market price total by said total type price includes determining a ratio by dividing said total type price by said summed market price total, thereby creating ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value.

18. (Currently amended) In an arrangement comprising a plurality of computers connected to a network, said plurality of computers including at least one server, at least one buyer client computer, and a plurality of seller client computers, a method for providing services, comprising:

providing a browsable display describing at least one service and features for allowing a buyer associated with said buyer client computer to provide a request for quote;

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer client computer, wherein said request for quote includes a product specification data set;

transmitting said product specification data set to at least one of said plurality of seller client computers;

C! receiving a plurality of price data sets from said plurality of seller client computers, wherein the price data set contains at least one quoted value, and wherein said plurality of price data sets are responsive to said product specification data set;

receiving metric data from at least one source, wherein the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices;

~~generating a normalized price data value, wherein the normalized price data value is a statistical value calculated by a comparison of a quoted value derived from the price data set to at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and~~

generating at least one comparison value, wherein at least one comparison value is indicative of a ratio of the at least one quoted value and the at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and

communicating ~~said normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value for depiction on said buyer client computer.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and

transmitting a purchase order to one of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from said plurality of buyer client computers; and

combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set includes information related to a buyer, said request for quote grade, quantity, tally, a method of shipment, and a ship date.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of like commodity items having different size parameters, a description of at least one commodity item, and a description of a delivery method.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein said price data set includes information to identify a seller, a quote price, shipment, and payment terms.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein said price data set further includes an adjusted price and an adjusted quantity.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising receiving an additional price data set from the seller client computer, wherein the additional price data is a result from a renegotiated price.

26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, further comprising storing ~~the normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value in a database communicatively connected to the server.

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein the generation of ~~the normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value includes applying a metric transform to said price data set to create a ~~normalized price data at least one comparison~~ value.

28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of commodity items having different size parameters and wherein the generation of ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value includes:

calculating a size total value based on said commodity size parameters;
retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;
retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said metric price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of one of said commodity items;
multiplying said comparable price per unit by said calculated size total value, thereby creating an adjusted market price total;
calculating a summed market price total by summing one or more adjusted market price totals; and
comparing said summed market price total by said price total, thereby creating ~~[[a]] normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein comparing said adjusted market price total by said price total includes determining a ratio by dividing said price total by said adjusted market price total, thereby creating ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value.

30. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 18, wherein said product specification data set comprises a plurality of quantity values for a number of commodity items, each having different size parameters and type parameters, wherein the generation of ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value includes:

for each commodity item having similar size parameters and type parameters, calculating a size total value based on a summation of said commodity size parameters;

retrieving a price total from one of said price data sets;

for each commodity item having similar size parameters and type parameters, retrieving a metric price data set, wherein said market price data set comprises a comparable price per unit of at least one of said commodity items;

multiplying said comparable price per unit by said size total value, thereby creating a market price total;

calculating a summed market price total from the summation of one or more said market price totals; and

comparing said summed market price total by said price total, thereby creating ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value.

31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein comparing said summed market price total by said total type price includes determining a ratio by dividing said total type price by said summed market price total, thereby creating ~~the normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value.

32. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for providing services, which, when executed, comprise:

providing a display describing at least one service on a computing device and features for allowing at least one buyer/client computer to provide a request for quote;

receiving at least one request for quote from said buyer/client computer, wherein the request for quote includes a product specification data set;

transmitting the product specification data set to a plurality of seller client computers;

receiving a plurality of price data sets from said plurality of seller client computers, wherein the price data set contains a quoted value, and wherein said plurality of price data sets are responsive to the product specification data set;

receiving metric data from at least one source, wherein the metric data represents price data that is indicative of one or more market prices;

generating at least one comparison value, wherein the comparison value is indicative of a ratio of the quoted value and at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and

~~generating a normalized price data value, wherein the normalized price data value is a statistical value calculated by a comparison of a quoted value derived from the price data set to at least one metric value derived from the metric data; and~~

generating an output of the ~~normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value for depiction on said buyer client computer.

33. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable medium method~~ method of Claim 32, ~~further comprising wherein the computer-executable instructions of~~ further comprise:

receiving a buy notice from said buyer client computer; and

transmitting a purchase order to one or more of said seller computers of said plurality of seller client computers.

34. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable medium method~~ method of Claim 32, ~~further comprising computer-executable instructions of~~ wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise:

receiving a plurality of product specification data sets from a plurality of buyer client computers; and

combining said plurality of product specification data sets, thereby creating one request for quote.

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35. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ method of Claim 32, ~~further comprising a computer-executable instruction of~~ wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise, receiving an additional price data set from the seller client computer, wherein the additional price data is a result from a renegotiated price.

36. (Currently amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ method of Claim 32, ~~further comprising a computer-executable instruction of~~ wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise, storing the ~~normalized price data~~ at least one comparison value in a database communicatively connected to the server.